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Sold-out camps reap strong believers

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The diversity of needs among Mississippi Baptist teenagers requires student ministry leaders to be creative and comprehensive in providing quality camp experiences for junior high and high schoolers, and two Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) events that address those needs are Student Camp at Central Hills Retreat near West, and Super Summer at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

The two ministries have different goals but are both designed to help students grow in Christlikeness.

The two Student Camps were held June 6-9 and 9-12. According to Ken Hall, consultant in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministries Department, "We had two excellent camps. The quality of the program was as good as anyone's, anywhere. Gary Permenter [speaker] and the Tom Edwards Band [music] are a great team. We offered a good camping experience.

"These were three-night camps — mini-camps — but we do that to make it more affordable. It's easier to get adults to help because they don't have to take as much time off. Both camps were full, about 150 campers at each one.

"These are good general overall camps, for junior high and high school students. We deal with evangelism and discipleship primarily. They were very well received. It's first class. These camps tend to attract groups from smaller churches," Hall said.

Student Camp activities include worship, time together with church groups, recreation, quiet times, late night, and track time options.

While the Student Camps are for anyone Super Summer, which is technically more of a conference than a camp, is designed for a more selective group. Super Summer is a discipleship/evangelism leadership conference designed to provide qualitative spiritual growth and help develop student



SHARING TRUTHS — Gary Permenter of Columbus, camp pastor at Student Camp held at Central Hills Retreat near West, preaches to campers at one of the morning sessions during camp. (Photo by Tony Martin)

leadership in Mississippi churches. Using a camp setting for 24 years, Super Summer has challenged students to learn how to penetrate their culture for Christ.

Promotional materials state, "Super Summer is not for everyone in your youth group. It is designed for students who personally have a desire to grow spiritually. Students come to Super Summer knowing that they will be challenged not only to grow, but to actively share their faith with others. Church leaders are responsible for sending only students that meet the requirements set forth for participation."

Requirements include being a faithful, baptized believer; demonstrating leadership qualities; being devoted to prayer, purity, abstinence, and being totally drug-free; sharing their personal testimony with their youth group; being involved in a small group discipleship study; memorizing at least 10 scripture verses; journaling; and other criteria.

So doesn't setting the bar so high dissuade students from participating?

"We had over 1,100 students and adults participate in Super Summer this year [July 11-15]. It was a record-breaking year," said Hall. "More and more churches, mostly through word-of-mouth, are discovering Super Summer."

Participants are divided into color-coded "schools," based on age and how many prior years an individual has been to Super Summer. Each school is self-contained in that each has a dean, co-dean, worship leader, and other staff. It is open to students who have completed the eighth through 12th grades.

"When we increase the first-year schools, the return rate is so much greater," Hall said. "That's one reason our numbers are up."

Ideally, Super Summer participants begin in the summer after their eighth grade year (Red School) and continue on for a five-year program, finishing in the Purple School for high school graduates. Each school's curriculum builds upon the previous year, but any student who meets the criteria for Super Summer will find the event relevant.

"Super Summer has been a big part of my spiritual growth," said Ashton Richardson from First Church, Brookhaven. "I can see how it's impacted the lives of other kids. This is my sixth year here. It means so much to me in my walk with Christ. I want to make a difference in other's lives. If you go once, you look forward to it all year. It's hard to put into words. You have to experience it."

"It's a leadership camp," said Jessica Brister from First Church, Jackson. "Every kid here is here for the same reason, to follow God. If something is going on in your life, Super Summer folks are there [year round] to check up on you. I've been to every church camp you can think of, and it's by far the best I've ever been to."

Because of the growth of Super Summer, the conference had to go to six first-year schools. "Three of those schools were for entering freshmen in high schools. We had 160 kids who had just completed the eighth grade who came to Super Summer, so we had to go to two second year schools as a result. That's amazing."

Super Summer will be held July 16-20, 2012, at Mississippi College. A third session of Student Camp will be added next year, with locations at Central Hills Retreat and Blue Mountain College. Dates are June 4-7; June 7-10; and June 11-14.



QUIET TIME — Students participating at Super Summer, Mississippi College, begin their day in a time of personal devotions. (Photo by Tony Martin)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Do your political homework

Americans in general are in a mighty foul political mood these days, and who can blame us? Our political leaders up and down the line have largely failed us, from county supervisors spreading around sweetheart deals, to state legislators loading up on bonds at taxpayer expense, to the U.S. President and Congress leading the country to the brink of default.

Too many of our political leaders are drunk with power (or just drunk). Too many are more interested in their own re-election than they are in the People's Business. Too many are enslaved to moneyed interests or personal aggrandizement. To be fair, there are politicians who are indeed focused solely on the public interest — but then again some politicians are simply unfit for office.

There's a great thing about living in a democratic republic as Americans do, and that's elections. We are not governed by kings or dictators in office for life, who then smooth the way for their sons to take over for life. When an American politician's specified term of office is nearing an end, he/she has to stand for re-election. If the people so choose, that politician is rewarded with another term of office. If it is not the will of a majority of the people voting in that particular election, he/she is turned out of office and a new person is elected.

With the task of determining the direction of the government comes great responsibility on the part of voters. Just as politicians sometimes fall short of voters' expectations, voters often fail those who stand for election by not being informed and prepared to select the best possible candidate. Studies show that many voters make their decisions based on the most shallow of considerations, such as a candidate's physical attractiveness or impressive elocution.

That should not be the case. Voting for our political leaders is much too important to be taken as lightly as many Americans do. If we elect scoundrels because we do not do our homework as involved citizens, then we will get the govern-



New Capital Building, Downtown Jackson

ment we deserve. On the other hand, if we elect the best candidates to office based on conversations with them and the study of their positions on important issues, we will get the government we deserve in that case too. It's our choice.

How do we judge the capabilities and qualifications of a candidate for the office he/she is seeking? One of the best ways is to consider the totality of that person's record both in public and private life. A big mistake voters often make in deciding for whom to vote is that we get stuck on one issue and expect the candidate to have a perfect scorecard on that one issue. If we are anti-abortion, that's the only issue that matters to us and we don't much care what the candidate believes about immigration reform. If we are passionate about immigration reform, we focus on that like a laser beam and overlook the candidate's position on abortion.

That's the way one-dimensional candidates get elected to office. They may appeal to you on a single issue that tickles your ears, but the totality of their record betrays that they are against you on almost every other important issue.

Don't fail to look at a candidate's private life, and don't be too timid to do so. While some people argue that a person's private life has nothing to do with his/her public life, that's simply not true. The latest sad examples of that fact (but certainly not the only examples) would have to be former U.S. Congressman Anthony Weiner of New York and former U.S. Senator John Ensign of Nevada.

The first primaries in Mississippi's quadrennial election cycle are nearly upon us. Candidates will be touting their credentials to hold office, and pressing voters to elect them. Pray for them, and pray for wisdom in exercising your right to vote. As Christians and as Baptists, there are issues important to us that each candidate should be prepared to address, such as abortion, gambling expansion, and alcohol regulation. We need to ask tough questions and expect honest answers. We need to do our homework. We need to be ready when we walk into the voting booth.

Rest assured we're going to get the government we deserve, one way or the other.

GUEST OPINION:

Strap in for coming roller coaster ride

By Denny Burk
Louisville, Ky.



become increasingly irrelevant.

Here's another item from the report that we need to pay attention to, according to one demographer quoted in the story: "We're moving toward an acknowledgment that we're living in a different world than the 1950s, where married or two-parent heterosexual couples are now no longer the norm for a lot of kids, especially kids of color."

This reality is as sad as it is sobering, but it also alerts us to another set of challenges that we have to face.

First, more than ever, androgynous disciple-making is no longer going to cut it (and really, it never did cut it). Making disciples in our churches must include an unflinching commitment to a

biblical vision for families. This means that our churches are going to have to teach our men to be faithful husbands and fathers, our women to be faithful wives and mothers, our little boys to grow up to be Christian men, and our little girls to grow up to be Christian women.

In short, we have to bear witness to and live out biblical manhood and womanhood. The culture is pressing us to abandon this vision and apart from a tenacious commitment to that vision, our families will disintegrate just like they are in the rest of the culture.

Secondly, our churches need to be ready to minister to people who do not belong to a traditional family. We are already facing this reality, and

it looks like the trend is only getting more dire. Who else but the church of Jesus Christ will be able to bring the Gospel to single moms and fatherless children, and who else but the church will be able to be a surrogate family for those who need one?

Are we ready for this challenge? Is your church meeting this challenge now? Again, if a church is unwilling to meet this challenge, not only will it be in sin (Matthew 25:40; Psalm 68:5), it will also become increasingly irrelevant.

As I think about the Southern Baptist Convention I know that these figures represent challenges to business as usual, but that is OK. Sometimes we need our cages rattled. My hope and prayer is that our response will be a deepening commitment to the Great Commission — that in our own country we would commit to making disciples of every people group.

The Lord's arm is not too short to save (Isaiah 59:1). Let's join Him in this work.

Burk is associate professor of New Testament at Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

South Sudan: trouble for new country?

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Republic of South Sudan became the world's newest independent country on July 9, but it will celebrate with questions and threats still pending.

South Sudan marked its independence with a ceremony in the capital of Juba, capping a bloody, lengthy path to freedom. The celebration will follow a two-decade-long civil war between the Arab Islamic north and the mostly Christian south that ostensibly concluded with the signing of a 2005 peace agreement.

That agreement, though its implementation is still incomplete, required a referendum to determine the future status of the southern part of the country. In January of this year, nearly 99 percent of the southern Sudanese who voted in the referendum chose independence.

Questions still remain for the new state and its old country, such as:

- Where exactly will the border between the two be, especially regarding the region of Abyei?
- How will the revenues from the oil-rich south be divided? Will southern Sudanese maintain citizenship rights if they continue to live in the north?
- The danger of militia forces possibly backed by Khartoum fomenting unrest in South Sudan.

Despite the uncertainties, advocates for religious liberty and human rights applauded the milestone.

It was "a long time in coming" for people who "paid a tremendous price," Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) told Baptist Press.

The southern Sudanese "have suffered terrible deprivations, and hundreds of thousands have died under the brutal Khartoum regime. Their 98 percent-plus vote for independence in the referendum was compelling proof of their desire to rule themselves as an independent nation," said Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, and a member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

USCIRF is a nine-member panel selected by the president and congressional leaders. It reports to the White House and Congress on religious freedom overseas.

"Freedom-loving people around the world should celebrate with the people of southern Sudan this propitious occasion," Land said, "and the world community should do everything in its power to guarantee the full independence and sovereignty of its new neighbor, the Republic of South Sudan."

Faith McDonnell told Baptist Press her first reaction "is to be very happy for South Sudan, to almost not be able to believe that it is happening."

"It's just a miracle, really," said McDonnell, director of the Church Alliance for a New Sudan at the Institute on Religion and Democracy in Washington, D.C.

USCIRF Chairman Leonard Leo, director of the lawyers division and executive vice president of the Federalist Society in Washington, D.C., said it would be "a tremendously exciting day for the people of South Sudan and the world."

In a written statement, Leo called it "a tremendous achievement for American diplomacy and the work of the international community. Dedicated, bipartisan efforts spanning the administrations of Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama and numerous sessions of Congress, as well as the tireless work of many special envoys to Sudan... were central to achieving peace and creating the Republic of South Sudan."

There are multiple concerns for the new country, longtime observers say.

Wolf told BP he expects the southern Sudanese "are going to have a lot of problems." The congressman, who has visited Sudan five times since 1989, said his concerns include the lack of infrastructure, the underdeveloped resources, the loss of a "whole generation" during the civil war, and the continued rule of Sudan President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Yet, Wolf said, the southern Sudanese "have a lot of spirit and strong faith. So I'm pretty optimistic that they're going to do well."

For Christians in Sudan who are outside the borders of South Sudan, life can be expected to be more difficult, Wolf and McDonnell told BP. Al-Bashir has said he plans to enforce Shariah law in Sudan.

"I think we are going to see our Christian brothers and sisters going through a really hard time if they are not in South Sudan," McDonnell said.

Wolf said, "I wouldn't want to be a Christian living in downtown Khartoum, and yet there are a number of them. [A]n amazing thing — the church is really alive," in the south and part of the north.

As independence day for South Sudan neared, al-Bashir's military attacked regions at the border but not in the new country. Khartoum forces invaded and bombed Abyei in May, driving more than 100,000 people from their homes, the Enough Project reported July 7.

They began bombing the Nuba Mountains in the state of South Kordofan in early June, displacing more than 70,000 people, and reportedly have practiced ethnic cleansing, according to the Enough Project.

South Sudan will occupy about the lower one-third of what was formerly the largest



A citizen of newly-independent South Sudan proudly carries the flag of his country through the streets of his hometown. South Sudan occupies the oil-rich lower third of Sudan, which before the split was the African continent's largest country by land mass. (BP photo)

African country in land area. The region of Abyei rests in the middle of the border between Sudan and South Sudan, and the sides have been unable to reach an agreement on how to determine its future.

North and south disagree on which residents in Abyei should be able to vote in a referendum.

Christians and others in the Nuba Mountains sided with the south in the long civil war that was based largely on religious differences, with the militant Arab Islamic forces backed by Khartoum pillaging Christian, animist, and moderate Muslim villages.

It is estimated more than two million people in the south and central parts of Sudan died at the hands of the Khartoum-supported militia and another four million or so were displaced.

While there has been some peaceful resolution in the south, the western region of Sudan has been the scene of ongoing, ethnic cleansing for the last eight years.

Khartoum military forces and Arab militias supported by the government have committed widespread atrocities against African Muslims in Darfur.

The genocide has resulted in the killing of an estimated 300,000 people, as well as rampant torture, rape, and kidnapping.

Nearly four million people have fled their homes because of the attacks.

The U.S. State Department has designated Sudan as one of only eight "countries of particular concern," a category reserved for the world's worst violators of religious liberty.

Looking back

10 years ago

The 2001 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra, made up of 135 youth and adult participants, spends two days in preparation and seven days touring.

20 years ago

The seven youth conferences sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board this summer at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian result in 172 decisions, including 55 professions of faith, 93 rededications, and 24 commitments to full-time Christian vocation.

50 years ago

The Baptist Children's Village announces the addition of a full-time department of choral music to its expanding program of activities. Deanne Rogers, Jackson, will direct the program.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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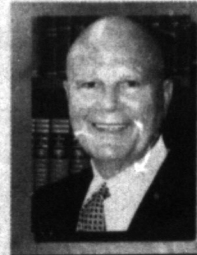
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Ten: Forty-five

PLUS ONE

In 1925, Southern Baptists embraced a proposal that would literally transform missions in the local church — and to the ends of the earth. It is called the Cooperative Program. Southern Baptists believe in the Cooperative Program. It is a unified approach to Kingdom work that blesses every segment of our mission endeavors and supports and undergirds every piece of our work. Since its inception, Mississippi Baptists have given through the Cooperative Program in support of Southern Baptist work and total mission efforts \$880,481,772.67. We believe in the Cooperative Program. We believe in the call of Jesus not only to reach our communities but to reach across our entire globe.

The Cooperative Program enables every one of our churches to be partners and participants in telling the Good News of Jesus, from the Baptist Children's Village to the most remote village on the other side of the world. While it is possible for a local church to have one, two, or even five special mission points on which to focus, the Cooperative Program enables us to focus on the totality and gives us an ongoing presence in every place.

Over the past decade we have watched as the support of the Cooperative Program has diminished. In 2000, the average Southern Baptist church gave 8.1% through the Cooperative Program. Fast forward to 2010 and the average Southern Baptist church gave 5.62% of their undesignated receipts. Here in Mississippi the story is a little brighter, but the trend has been the same. In 2000, the average among Mississippi Baptists giving



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to missions through the Cooperative Program was 10.24%. Today that number is down to 8.42%.

While there are no doubt multiple reasons why this decline has taken place, and there could be days or weeks of discussion about those issues, the fact is that the need is greater than ever and the urgency to reverse this decline must be addressed. Frank Page, the president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, has given his heart and soul to seek to help Southern Baptists understand what great things we can do if we join together to accomplish it.

At the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Az., he called on Southern Baptists nationwide to urge their churches to take a step away from the decline toward the incline. He asked churches to consider adding one percent to the support of the Cooperative Program next year. As simple as that may sound, the impact to

touch this world would be profound almost beyond description. Can it be done? Absolutely! Will it be done? It will not be done without prayer and commitment. I know economic conditions are not ideal. I am fully aware that many of our people, and subsequently the congregations of which they are a part, are struggling just to survive financially.

On the other hand, God is providing in tremendous ways for so many of His people. There are a couple of things of which I am absolutely confident. One is that we can make a difference. Two is that we will not make a difference if we do not try. In baseball, no batter ever walks up to the plate and hits the baseball without taking a swing. Since the call went out from Frank Page, I have talked to a number of pastors who in their heart would agree that they recognize the challenges. Some have readily admitted that they will not be able to make a change this coming year.

Others are thinking that they will try to challenge their church to move upward. These will be discussions and decisions that will be made by each congregation.

Plus One refers to trying to increase gifts through the Cooperative Program by one percent, but what if you find that is totally impossible to do? I would like to encourage you to think about increasing your gifts by some degree, whether it is \$1,000 over this year or \$500 more than this year. For some, it may even be \$100 more — the point being that every church can make a difference in the direction of mission giving so that our world may hear of our glorious Savior and see the light of His glory. Ask God to give you wisdom, boldness, faith, and commitment to do what He would have you to do. You will be blessed and He will be honored as you simply follow Him.

The author can be contacted at
jfutral@mbcb.org.



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YAZOO COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Please mail resumes to 2014 Country Club Drive, Yazoo City, MS 39194, attention: Caleb Clark.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



3. Fredonia Church, New Albany



4. Yellow Creek Church, Irka



5. Slayden Church, Slayden

1. Bellevue Church, Thaxton: June 13 - 16; enrollment, 91; average attendance, 77; four decisions to accept Christ; offering, \$305.

2. Shiloh Church, Big Creek: July 25 - 28, 6 - 8 p.m.; Bible lessons, crafts, music, and snacks; transportation provided.

3. Fredonia Church, New Albany: June 6-10; 371 children, youth, and adults; shown are the participants.

4. Yellow Creek Church, Irka: Participants shown June 18. Sonya McRight, director.

5. Slayden Church, Slayden: June 19 - 24; 167 students enrolled; 71 teachers and helpers; five salvations; \$1366.28 collected and sent to the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief fund; directors Lisa and Katey Jones, Amy Kee; VBS pastor Brian Ross.

6. Liberty Church, Noxapater: June 20 - 24; 91 enrolled; eight professions of faith; Jim Pender, pastor.

7. Longview Church, Starkville: June 19 - 23; the offering went to the Mississippi State Baptist Student Union for summer missions. Shown are the participants.

8. Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis: June 20 - 24; "Pandamania" theme. Shown are many of the participants.

9. Pine Hill Church, Enterprise: Two professions of faith; participants collected \$441.86 to send to the Baptist Children's Village. Participants are shown.

10. First Church, Vicksburg: June 20-24; annual Mission Offering. Contest raised \$1004; Margie Heltzel, director. Heltzel is shown being "slugged" by Kevin Hurt, minister of discipleship and missions.



6. Liberty Church, Noxapater



7. Longview Baptist Church, Starkville



8. Morgan Chapel Baptist Church, Sturgis



9. Pine Hill Baptist Church, Enterprise



10. First Baptist Church, Vicksburg

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Antioch Church, Brandon: 175th anniversary and homecoming. July 24; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Larry Duncan, speaker; Natalie Duncan Emmons, music; Scott Walters, pastor.

2. Yockanookany Church, Attala County: Revival, Aug. 3 - 5, 7 p.m.; Danny Townsend, speaker; Jennifer Cagle and Cliff Townsend, music; James Burrell, pastor.

3. North McComb Church, McComb: Revival, July 24 - 27; Sun., 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon concert with Phillip, Caitlin, and Erin Alford; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Talmadge Smith, speaker; Phillip Alford, music.

4. Holcomb Church, Holcomb: Revival, July 31 - Aug. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mark LaRue, speaker; Bradford Ministries Quartet, music.

5. Shiloh Church, Carroll Association: Revival, July 29 - 31; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Rusty Fair, speaker; Doug Warren, pastor and music.



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Then come to the Holy Homes Revival
led by Clay & Renee Crosse at
West McComb Baptist Church
July 29th - 31st, 2011

Friday, 29th - 7:00 pm

Saturday, 30th - 10:00 am, Covered Dish Lunch
following in the Family Life Center
and 7:00 pm

Sunday, 31st - 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Covered Dish Lunch following
in the Family Life Center

Come and experience a Life Changing Revival!

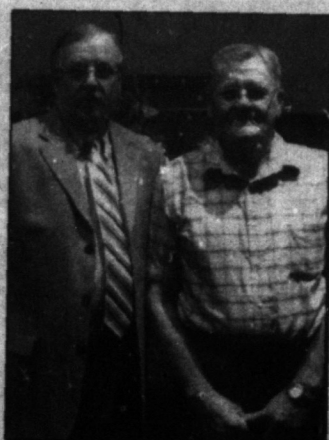


Come and experience a Life Changing Revival!

JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Liberty Church, Carroll Co.



2. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

1. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, is hosting a prayer conference July 24 - 27. Greater is He. Sun., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 6 p.m. Jerry Rankin, speaker; Dustin Rouse, music.

2. Liberty Church, Jefferson Community, recently honored Jane Blair for 10 years of volunteer service in the Jail Ministry at Grenada County Jail. Blair is shown with Pastor Gary Tanner.

3. The Children's Department of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recognized all fathers on Father's Day with gifts. Melvin Allen was recognized as the oldest father in attendance and was presented with a gift. Hal Hatten, pastor, and Melvin Allen shown.

4. The 4-6 grade Sunday School class of Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, presented Ray Hodgins with \$770 to benefit his mission work in Paraguay. Pictured are (front) Brandon Harkins, Gabby Shelton, Regean Kinard, Mollie Shelton; (rear) the Hodgins and Helen Shannon.

5. First Church, Byhalia, thanked George Bristow for his hard work, service and dedication to the church and its members. Shown is John LoPreto presenting the award, Cindy and George Bristow and Pastor Stuart Swicegood.

6. Bovina Church, Vicksburg, held a celebration of fathers for Father's Day. Shown are some of the men who attended.

7. First Church, Belzoni, presented their annual Patriotic Musical Program June 26. Shown are the participants.

8. Burns Church, Smith County, held a baby dedication service May 29. Shown is Pastor Carey Bass with Jared and Alisha Smith and son, Mason.

9. Rock Bluff Church, Daniel, held a baby dedication service June 26. Shown are Bryan and Nicole Tagert with son, Keegan, and daughter, Lily; and James and Spirit Means with grandson, Ryder Granberry.

10. Center Church, Union County, celebrated Baptist Men's Day on Father's Day with an all-men's choir. Shown are service participants Windom "Red" Taylor, left, and Dustin Clark.



7. First Church, Belzoni



8. Burns Church, Smith County



9. Rock Bluff Baptist Church, Daniel



10. Center Church, Union County

JUST FOR THE RECORD



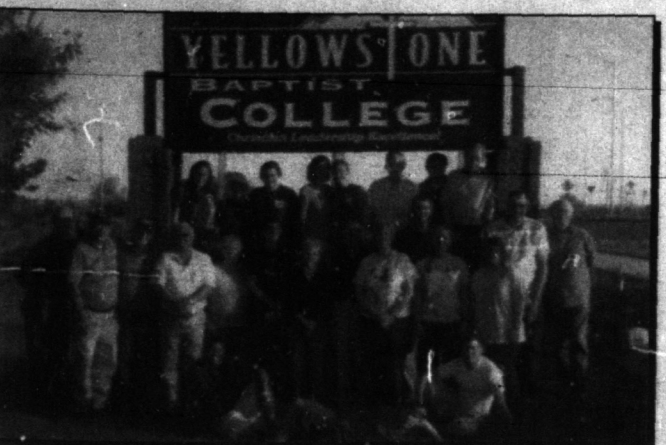
11. Shady Grove Church, Lucedale



12. Spring Hill Church, Waterford



13. Cash Church, Scott County



14. Grace United Church, Decatur, and Liberty Church, Waynesboro

11. The children's choir of Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, "King's Kidz," recently presented a patriotic program. Participants are shown. Back row (from left), Jake Parker, Anastasia Pinter, Kate Gunter, Robert Parker, Trace Pope, Camie Pinter and Abigayle McKenzie; front row (from left), Morgan Wade, Ashley Jenkins and Alex Wade.

12. Children from Spring Hill Church, Waterford, recently attended camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Shown are some of the children who attended.

13. Cash Church, Scott County, held a baby dedication on Father's Day. Parents Jody and Brittany Reyer presented Anna Paisleigh Reyer; parents Ben and Jessica Rasco presented Reese Eric Rasco. Pastor M. L. Wallace. Shown are the participants.

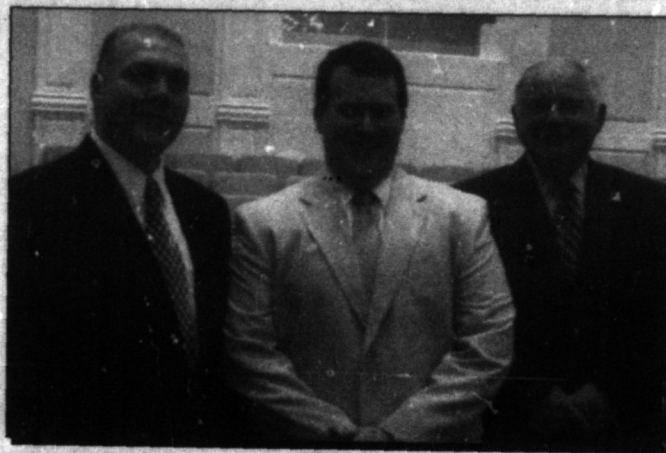
14. M.L. Henley, Cheryl McElhenney and Mike McNeil from Grace United Church, Decatur, joined Liberty Church, Waynesboro, on a mission trip to Yellowstone College in Billings, Montana, from May 30 through June 19. The team was involved in a variety of construction and service missions, as well as ministering to area children and families.

15. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, ordained Will Jordan to the gospel ministry July 3. Shown are Mark Strum, Jordan, and Randy Gardner.

16. Four youth from Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, attended Super Summer at Mississippi College. Shown are leader Phillip Wallace, Victoria Wilson, Jake Bradley, Marcus Moak, Kaylie Crosby, and youth director Ronnye Hart.

17. Shelton Church, Moselle, held a baby dedication Father's Day. Shown are Jonathan and Heather Brady with baby Eli; Jared and Tracy Brogan with babies Patrick and Colin; Brian and Carrie Smith with baby Maggie; Dereck and Anna Sumrall with baby Micah; and B. J. and Danielle Wedgeworth with baby Hunter.

18. Hebron Church, Benton, recently licensed Bob Purvis to pastoral ministry. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals or interim pastoral duties. Call (662)755-2654 or (662)571-9782. Shown are Luke Edwards and Purvis.



15. Jordan ordination



16. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

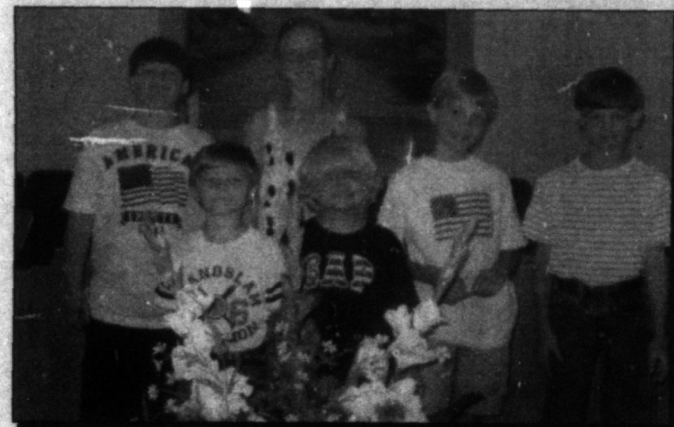


17. Shelton Church, Moselle

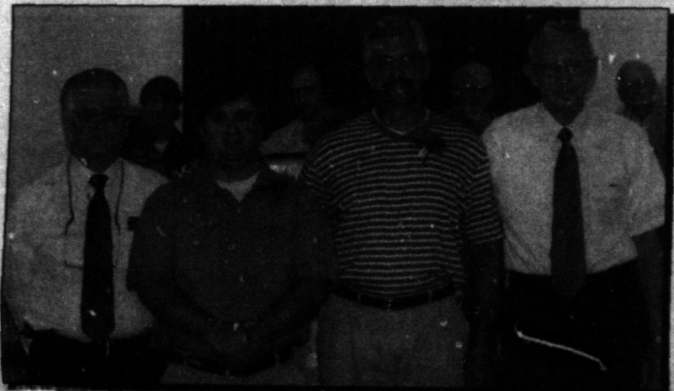


18. Edwards and Purvis

JUST FOR THE RECORD



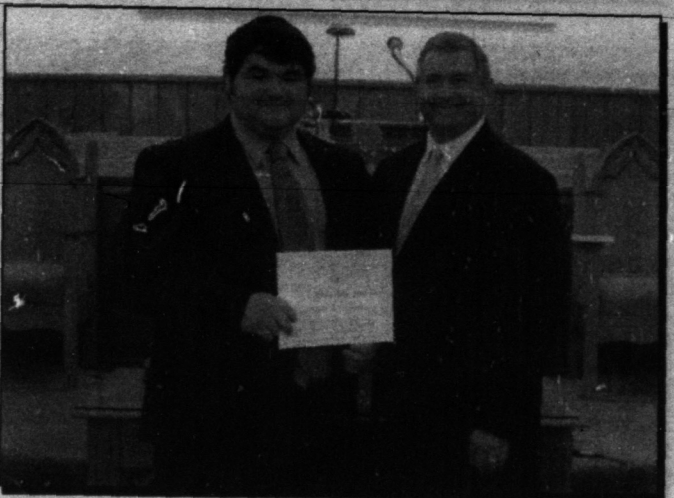
1. Grandview Church, Pearl



3. Liberty Church, Jefferson



4. New Fellowship Church, Jasper



5. Varborough and Porter



1. The children's choir of Grandview Church, Pearl, presented patriotic songs on July 3. Shown are Hunter McKinzie, Lydia Grace McMillan, Chase Smith, Cody Carr, Brady Carr and Jack Smith. Kristi McMillan, director.

2. First Church, Morton, hosted the Scott County Senior Adult Rally. Larry Duncan, speaker. Area business provided information booths; lunch and special music was provided.

3. Liberty Church, Jefferson Community, honored all fathers in attendance during the morning services on June 19. Pictured are Gary Tanner, pastor; Jamison Bailey - youngest father in attendance; Donnie Corley - father with the most family members present and Ed Tharp - oldest father in attendance.

4. New Fellowship Church, Jasper, ordained Cecil Allyon, Jeff Griffin, and Kevin Griffin as deacons July 3. Ted Dukes, pastor. Shown are the new deacons.

5. Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven, licensed Brooks Porter to the ministry June 26. Shown are pastor Anthony Varborough and Porter.

6. Edna Church, Columbia, held a baby dedication July 10. Shown are Rick and Lisa Fortner and baby Madison.

7. Harmony Church, Quitman, licensed Todd Blackwell to the ministry June 5. Shown are pastor Norman Robinson and Blackwell.



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6. The Fortners



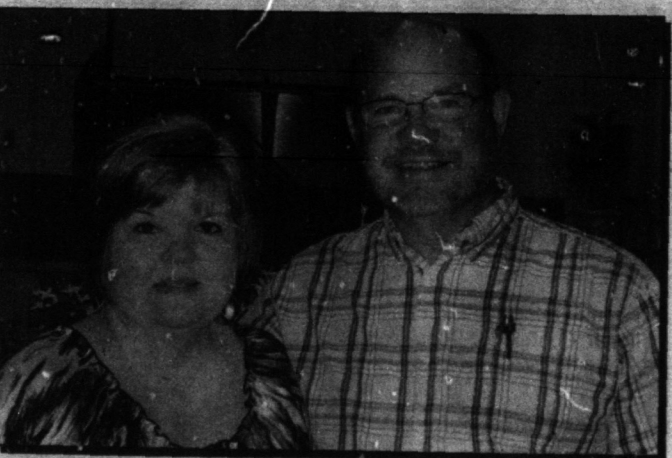
7. Robinson and Blackwell

STAFF CHANGES

1. Burns Church, Smith County, has called Carey Bass as pastor, effective June 5. Bass served as preacher for the months of April and May.

2. New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley has named James R. "Randy" Driggers as the school's new vice president for institutional advancement. Driggers will direct the development, alumni relations, church-minister relations and public relations departments of the seminary.

3. New Zion Church, Braxton, has called Jimmy Errington as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Renee.



3. The Erringtons



2. Driggers

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Carrollton Church, Carrollton



2. Enterprise Church, Clarke County



3. McCool Baptist Church, McCool



4. Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association

1. Carrollton Church, Carrollton: VBS "Mission Central" sessions were led by Charles Ray and his wife. The Rays are shown.

2. Enterprise Church, Clarke County: had a "Big Apple Adventure" VBS. Participants shown.

3. McCool Church, McCool: recently held its annual VBS; Lynn Wallace, pastor. Participants shown.

4. Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association: June 6 - 10; total enrollment 96, average attendance 78. Participants shown.

5. Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale: Average attendance, 55; Amber Spring, director; Richard Cothorn, interim pastor; shown are the participants.

6. Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven: Shown are the participants.

7. Calvary Church, Oak Grove: Average attendance, 100; \$560 collected for Operation Christmas Child. Shown are the participants.

8. Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora: Participants collected \$625 in offerings to go toward tornado victims. Shown are the participants.



5. Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale



6. Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven



7. Calvary Church, Oak Grove



8. Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora



OBITUARY

Stanley B. Barnett, 84, died June 4 at Neshoba County General Hospital. Services were June 7 at 11 AM, McClain-Hays Funeral Home, Philadelphia, followed by burial in the Spring Creek cemetery, Neshoba County. Wayne Hill and Mack Alford officiated. He was ordained to the ministry by Spring Creek Church, Neshoba County, August, 1950. He was a graduate of Clarke College, Newton, Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. During his 52 years of service, he pastored eight churches. His first pastorate was East Philadelphia Church, then Second Church, Union Hill, Tennessee; Sunny Hill Church, McComb; Oakland Heights Church,

Meridian; Vinesville Church, Birmingham, Alabama; Hillview Church, Birmingham; First Church, Pearl; and North Calvary Church, Philadelphia. After his retirement he served as interim pastor of several churches in Neshoba County. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cynthia Barnett Cleary. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Estelle Vines Barnett; Thomas Barnett and wife, Suzanne, Magee; three grandchildren, Ashley Barnett, Janet and Barnett Cleary; son-in-law, Paul Cleary, Branford, Connecticut two brothers, Ross Barnett, Peachtree City, Georgia, and Gerald Branning, Philadelphia; sister, Connie Walters, Philadelphia; and several nieces and nephews.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with love and respect, those who are and have been a part of our special family.

MAY 2011

MEMORIALS

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Bill & Helen Hays
Dean Vicknair
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mr. J. B. Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Coleman
Mr. Wayne Coleman
Mr. Murdoch Walley
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Edwards
Mrs. Georgia Belle Ward
Mrs. Allie Busby & Family
Mrs. Ellen Busby
Billy Watson
Bill & Sharon Newsom
Mrs. Bernice Watson
Mrs. Margaret P. Lee
Alex Watts
Bill & Michelle Beard
Michael & Shirell Betts
Josh & Miranda Chavis
Kenneth & Hope Hawkins
Carl & Eunice Woolery
William "Bill" Welch
Ms. Saletta Hendry
Fred Wells
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson
James C. Wheeler
Ms. Carol C. Lockwood
Leonard Whittington
M. E. (Gonny) & Margaret Newton
Mr. Atley Williams
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
Mrs. Thessie Williamson
Charles & Pat Muscio
Mrs. Sara Washam
Ron & Betty Bennett
Hazel Wylie
Tommie Joe Wylie
Jane Wylie
Tommie Joe Wylie

JUNE 2011

HONORS

Bro. L. C. & Mrs. Wildeen Anthony
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges

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Mrs. Virginia H. Atherton
Caden & Finley Callero
Ms. Patsy C. Pace
Vince Ches
Anthony & Wanda DeLee
Mrs. Lorraine Elmerick
Mrs. Bobby Gordon
Sybil Farr
Outreach SSC, Macedonia BC
Hubert Greer
Poplar Springs BC, Hazlehurst
Billy Guilbert
Jimmy & Analyn Goff
Walter Hallberg
Howard & Mary Benson
Glyn Hester
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Black
Dr. Angela Jones
Forrest Genera! Home Care & Hospice
Larue & Ellouise Magee
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Dr. Joe McKeever
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Mrs. Barbara Nance
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southernland
L. L. (Pete) Jr. & Betty Oglesby
Percy & Hilda Peeler
Mrs. Dudley Pope
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southernland
Jacque Rogers
Jimmy & Analyn Goff
Elizabeth M. Tate
William & Irene Mullen
Mrs. Dot Willoughby
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham Sr.

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Fellowship BC, Taylorsville
Gordon L. Alexander
Ms. Nocus D. Whittington
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. McDaniel
Mrs. Pearl R. Strange
Beulah Mae Sullivan Arinder
Mrs. Louise S. Hiscoc
Mrs. Patricia C. Duckworth

Mrs. Helen Armstrong
Charles & Myra Dew
Analo T. Arnold
Mike, Shirley & Irene
Peggy & Brenda
Beck Ball
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Kenneth Barkley
Mr. & Mrs. James Criswell Jr.
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George Boggan
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark
J. J. Bonds
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Dr. James E. Booth
Mrs. Alice H. Evans
Kevin Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King
W. A. Breland
Carl & Betty Howard
Joey Bridges
Mrs. Doris B. Cole
Mildred Briley
Arlington Heights BC, Pascagoula
Mr. Gene Britt
Kay & Curtis Buchanan
Frank Brooks
Willard & Emma Bailey
Bonnie Brown
Ms. Mary Catherine Gentry
Doug & Laverne Myers
Harold & Peggy Myers
Mr. Kimbriel Brown
Paul & Sharon Ervin
Mr. Wilton Brown
Mr. Tommy Lutz
Randolph Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southernland
Jahazel Buckley
Mr. Ted Buckley
Mildred Buckley
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Mr. & Mrs. Olen S. Broom
Mr. Bud Burrell
Kenneth & Jeannie West
Mr. E. C. Bush
Ms. Darnie B. Brenholtz
Jeremy Butler
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Crawford Byrd Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Bailey Jr.
Mary Cain
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson
Mrs. Althea M. Partridge
Mrs. Mildred Campbell
Jimmy & Jo Ann Carruth
Ed Chisolm
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peeples
Bill Clark
Leroy & Sandra Peeples
Mrs. Erlene F. Clark
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Kenneth & Jeannie West
Mr. Eugene "Jeep" Clark
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
James "Jimmy" Clements
Joe & Gloria Frost
Neville Conerly
Ms. Camille S. Conerly
Marvin Costin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Christman
Mr. Henry Covington
Men's SSC, Pochontas BC
Barbara Craft
Dr. Shirley Cagle
Mrs. Doris Creel
Ladies SSC II, Oak Grove BC
Norma Jean Crouse
Ressie & Jill Riddell
Mr. George Dalton
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield
Estell Darr
Sandy Hook BC
June Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Christman
Dean Davis
James & Marcia Eckert
Helen Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Christman
Mr. J. R. Davis
George & Claudette Faulk

Keith Daymond
Ad I SSC, Calvary BC, Summit
Edgar L. Dear Jr.
Ted & Vivian Norris
Tom & Margaret Pressley
Arvis Dennis
Dorcas/Fidelis SSC, Bowmar BC
Mrs. Ellen Dickinson
Siloam BC, Meadville
Jimmie Dillon
Mrs. Allan Loper
Bill DuBose
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Kathryn Dunn
Jesse & Jimmie Palmer
Tootie Dunnam
Mrs. Ina A. Carmichael
Martha Elmore
Ms. Jo Hicks
Percy Emanuel
Stanton BC, Natchez
Harriet Engelbrecht
Charles & Bernice Engelbrecht
Robert Earl Flowers
Concord BC, McCall Creek
Myra L. Forbes
Sandy Hook BC
James Foster
Harry Neal & Weezie Corder
Lucille Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson
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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Personal Responsibility

Romans 6:8-18

By Beth Bowman

Embrace Your New Identity (Romans 6:8-11)

Since we have made our decision to trust in Jesus, we died to sin. In other words, sin is no longer our boss or master. Now, to the most important thing - we live with him. He lives in us. You are no longer a slave and servant to sin. The Holy Spirit lives in you and you have access to His power, His strength, His hope, His joy. Quit living in your own power. Rom 8:11 states, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." The very same power that raised Jesus from the DEAD dwells in you. You have the power to say no to sin. It's a

new day! Verse eleven tells us to count ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Count yourselves - Plan on it - Be intentional about it - Recognize it - Understand it - Believe it - and most importantly...DO IT!

Fight Sin (Romans 6:12-14)

The therefore in verse 12 (NIV) gives us the mandate after our teaching. Therefore, do not let sin reign. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of His power; therefore, do not let sin be the master. Even though our struggle with sin continues, we have been provided resources to avoid sin. I Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) states it this way, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not



Bowman

let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." There is no temptation that others have not faced and God understands those temptations. But He is not willing to let us fight and struggle on our own. He has provided a way through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us to flee temptation. (1 Timothy 6:11) A modern version (Beth's) would be: Run as far and as fast as you can from sin. I try to remember the word Run. R-Realize areas that you may be tempted and avoid them, U-Utilize friends, family, church members to hold you accountable and N-Know God's word, memorize it. Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the

heart." God's word can keep you from temptation and sin.

Walk in Righteousness (Romans 6:15-18)

What then? Should we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Should we dwell in a lifestyle that we know to be against God's best? It is not enough for us to say no to sin, we have to proactively, consciously say yes to living right for God. Theologian Charles Spurgeon wrote, "If you, my friend, do not detest every sinful thing, I fear you are still in the gall of bitterness; for one of the sure fruits of the Spirit is a love of holiness, and a loathing of every false way. A deep inward experience forbids the child of God to sin: he has known within himself its judgment and its condemnation, and henceforth it is a thing abhorrent to him. An enemy both fierce and endless exists between the chosen seed and the serpent brood of evil: hence the fear that grace will be abused is abundantly safeguarded." What does right living (righteousness) look like in the believers life? It looks like a

desire to live life God's way. It looks like a repentant heart when mistakes are made. It looks like a joy that can't be explained when Godly choices are made.

I have never had a traffic ticket. Well, the truth is, I have never paid a traffic ticket. Not being the most attentive driver, I tend to get distracted easily and make mistakes. Circling blue lights always help me correct errors and pay attention. Uniforms and holstered guns remind me of my responsibilities. Unfortunately, these reminders of the law are quickly forgotten within minutes of my encounter. God planned for the opposite reaction in the life of believers. Our encounter with His grace in salvation demands a life response not regulated by others. His gift of the Holy Spirit gives the power to refuse sin and embrace right living! Let's live it!

Bowman is Minister of Connection at First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Settle Down

Jeremiah 29:14-14

By Harold Simmons

Jeremiah is using a letter to communicate with the Jewish people who have been exiled to Babylon. This is the third group that has been taken from their home to Babylon. Only the very poor have been left. The city of Jerusalem has been destroyed. The walls have been torn down all the buildings have been burned. Ashes and rubble are all that is left for the very few people who are left. It is from this ruin that Jeremiah sends a letter to the exiles.

Establish Normalcy (Jeremiah 29: 4-7)

The Lord communicates to the people that He is still in control. He tells the people that He, not the king of Babylon, is responsible for their situation.

God used the king as His instrument to bring this disaster upon them. This hurt can be for them a redemptive happening. God wants the Jews to allow Him to redeem this horrible event to their good.

Therefore, He relates to them through Jeremiah's letter that they should be ready for a long stay in Babylon. Building houses, planting gardens and eating the produce will take a while. Even longer for them to take wives and have children and give their children in marriage. These activities are the normal things for them to do if they were still in Judah. Having a home, having food and having children are all things that produce joy in life.

Though they are not in Judah, God tells them to have



Simmons

civic pride in the city where they are living. Pray for the city and work to make it prosperous because in so doing they will reap benefits themselves. Life is to be lived with joy no matter where you are or how you got there.

Reject Unrealistic Dreams (Jeremiah 29:8-9)

Hope reigns supreme in the heart of people who are defeated. They dream of things being like they "used to be." God told the people that prophets who were there with them and were in the same situation would give them false hope. No matter how they longed to be back in their native land, they were indeed going to be where they resided for seventy years. God does not want them to waste their lives living false dreams. He wants them to have hope but hope that is realistic. If they do have false hope, they will be most miserable

and not joyful. Worshipping anything other than God will prove to have the same results. Worshipping Him brings certainty and real hope. These are the things these people and we need most.

A real hope is shown in the Seder service when the leader says at the end of the ceremony: "Next year in Jerusalem." It is the hope of every Jew to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. This is a real hope because it is possible. It is not possible for these people to return home at this time.

Remember the Lord Is in Control (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

The Lord gives them an exact time for His visit to them again to carry out His plans for them. These plans are going to be for their benefit. They will be restored not only to their homeland but also to their fortune. But, there must be that seventy year wait. Most of the people who were adults would not

see that day but they could have joy in knowing that they are not forgotten by God who is still in control.

We would often give our friends in the Air Force the southern saying: You all come to see us." Finally one friend said, "If you really want us to come, give us a time to come." God really wants these people to know that He is coming to get them and gives them a timetable for that event.

There is a condition for all these things to happen. That condition is their reaction to the Lord. They are to call to Him, pray to Him and search for Him with all their hearts. The Lord gives them an assurance that they will find a willing Lord.

In the New Testament we find these same conditions for a right relationship with Him. If we seek Him we will be restored to our rightful place in His presence.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not data-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Seminary extension, Delta-Ridge



3a. Union Church, Caesar Community



3b. Union Church, Caesar Community

1. First Church, Batesville, held its first Upward Basketball camp June 13 - 17. There were 19 participants and two professions of faith. John Engstrom, guest speaker.

2. Seminary Extension centers of the Delta-Ridge area recently recognized six students who had completed a third of the prescribed course of study. Seminary Extension training of bivocational pastors and leaders is a key strategy in the revitalization of small and struggling churches in the Delta and adjoining hills. Shown, left to right, are Joe Young, Coordinator, Mississippi River Ministries, MBCB; Lowell Ingram, ADOM, N. Central Assn.; pastor Floyd Cooper, Seminary Extension instructor for over 30 years; pastor and Mrs. Harvey Green, Moorhead, certificate recipients; pastor Marvin Overstreet, Charleston, certificate recipient, and Tommy Williamson, ADOM, Mid-Delta Assn.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



3. Union Church, Caesar Community, held a missions coronation service June 26. Shown are the participants - photo a, Acteens, and photo b, GA's.

4. First Church, Tupelo, recognizes its student Bible drillers. Front, Lauren Pugh, Madison Young, and Lily Pittman; back, Micah Russell and Trevor Sides. Chad Grayson, pastor.



4. First Church, Tupelo

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Park Haven Church, Laurel: Shown are the participants.

2. Pleasant Hill Church, Carthage: June 1 - 3; total enrollment, 66; Randolph Scott, pastor. Shown are the participants.



1. Park Haven Church, Laurel



2. Pleasant Hill Church, Carthage

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